

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 18, 2005. Claims 30, 32, 34 and 36 are presented for examination, all of which are in independent form. Claims 3-6, 9-12, 15-18, 21-29, 31, 33, 35 and 37-40 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 30, 32, 34 and 36 have been amended into independent form, to incorporate the recitations of their respective base claims. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The specification has been amended to conform the Summary of Invention section to the amended claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication that Claims 30, 32, 34 and 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended each of Claims 30, 32, 34 and 36 into independent form, and consequently these claims are seen to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 3, 9, 15, 21, 25-28 and 37-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,666,159 (*Parulski et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,249,681 (*Virtanen*); Claims 29, 31 33 and 35 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Parulski* in view of *Virtanen* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,826,400 (*Cashman et al.*); and Claims 4-6, 10-12, 16-18 and 22-24 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Parulski* in view of *Virtanen* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,806,005 (*Hull et al.*). Claims 3-6, 9-12 15-18, 21-24, 25-29, 31, 33, 35 and 37-40 have all been cancelled, and the remaining claims are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have

been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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